

Apr. 3, 13

POSBUS 21047

Helling

2036

Sir

I am a 26 year old, Afrikaans speaking man. I have done my 2 year military service but must still do compo.

I am presently employed by the city council.

Can you please send me some more information about the E.C.C., like what do they do, what is their aim and how do I join.

Thanks.

~~Yours~~  
H. Gouws





MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURY

Dear ECC member

It has been scientifically proved that things tend towards a state of chaos if left to themselves. This is the result of recent experiments conducted with ECC's financial records. The most important finding is that failure to submit a budget, well in advance of any significant expense which is planned, leads inexorably to ruin and damnation.

In future, please submit a brief written budget to Exec whenever you will need to spend more than, say, R 50.00. The outline below is an example of the sort of information needed. Please don't wait until the last minute - you may find that there is no cash available and have to foot the bill yourself!

We also need to be a little more conscientious about handing in receipts and invoices. Crumpled Checkers till slips with nothing else written on them are too small to be used as toilet paper and have no other use. Please indicate at least:

- \* What the invoice/receipt was for
- \* Your name
- \* Whether or not you need to be reimbursed

If we follow these simple procedures, then surely our bucks shall multiply and our mental institutions shall be empty of ECC treasurers.

Thanks  
Chris de Villiers  
Treasurer

SUGGESTED BUDGET FORMAT

- \* Subgroup :
- \* Date :
- \* What money is required for :
- \* Total amount required :
- \* Breakdown of costs : (if applicable)
- \* When is payment required : (eg: in advance, on invoice, cash on delivery, etc)
- \* Method of payment : (eg: cash, cheque, invoice, etc)

Note: we much prefer to get an invoice, because we then have at least 30 days to pay. This is usually possible with people who know us. If we have to pay cash (or with a cash cheque) we should get a discount.



When Janet Cherry is asked how she coped with nearly a year in detention, she grins and quotes a security policeman, "human beings is a miracle ; they can adapt to anything."

As the weeks and months dragged by in prison, Janet often remembered Major Roelofse's comment. "He was right", she says, "one can adapt to so many things. One can adapt to life in detention and to the uncertainty of not knowing how long you will be in for."

A week after her release from North End Prison in Port Elizabeth, Janet is in Cape Town with her family and friends. She is fit and healthy. In fact everyone who sees her remarks on how well she looks. She plans to take it easy for a while but is already talking about her political involvement next year. As we walk up towards the forest, she cannot get over how beautiful Table Mountain is. The space, colours, wind and movement are still new experiences.

Until June last year Janet was the chairperson of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) in Port Elizabeth and a literacy teacher with the Adult Learning Project. When the State of Emergency was imposed on June 12 she went into hiding in Cape Town to avoid detention. The security police caught up with her 5 weeks later - "there was that awful 5 o'clock knock on the door," she recalls. "The police were fairly polite and said, 'have some tea, get your things together, we're detaining you under the Emergency.' I felt no panic. Just resignation. The inevitable was happening."

Later that day the police drove Janet to 'Louis le Grange', security police headquarters in Port Elizabeth, where she spent three weeks in solitary confinement. She was then moved to North End Prison and held with three other white women detainees from Grahamstown until their release in October. She was alone again for three weeks before Sue Lund, a Grahamstown Rural Committee field-worker, was detained and put in her cell. Janet was released in August after 11 months in detention.

She only had contact with the security police during the first month. The detention was purely 'preventative': "the police didn't ask me about anything I was involved in. They simply did not want me to play a political role in PE." Even during the initial period in 'Louis le Grange' she was "not interrogated as much as insulted" by security police. On one occasion Major Roelofse accused her of setting up street committees in PE "but he had no facts to back this up. It was a ridiculous allegation."

Life in North End Prison was bleak. It is a very old prison and not meant for long term prisoners. There are no recreational or sports facilities, and no movies or radios as in other prisons. Detainees are not allowed to interact with non-political prisoners and so can not work in the kitchen ~~and~~ laundry; or keep busy with other prison work. They may not even eat with the other prisoners. For most of the day the detainees are confined to their cells. Within that limited space there is an immense amount of time.



The day began at 5:45 when the warders switched on the lights and woke the detainees. Forty-five minutes later they returned to ask if there were any 'klagtes' (complaints). The detainees were supposed to be standing at attention next to their beds, "but after a while we lost interest in those militaristic actions," Janet laughs. "We remained sitting on our beds and sometimes slept through the process!"

After 'klagtes' the outside grill was unlocked and the detainees could use the bathroom. Breakfast was at 7:30 in the corridor outside the cell - mieliepap with powdered milk, bread and jam, tea or coffee. The detainees were locked back in their cells for an hour after breakfast and then released into the courtyard for an hours exercise. The courtyard is about the size of a small living room.

Lunch was at 11 o'clock. The soya soup and mielie rice were inedible. Then the cycle was repeated: confined to the cells till 2:00, another hours exercise and supper at 3pm. Supper consisted of samp, dehydrated mixed vegetables and, on different days of the week, fish, meat, soya, chicken and eggs. Only the egg and fish were bearable.

At 4:00 the warders locked all the doors and went home, leaving a skeleton staff on duty. It was a bad moment for the detainees, "There's this whole process of about 5 people with 8 bunches of keys closing up. They say goodnight and you hear them going down the passage, slamming all the doors and locking them. That's the part, every day, when you feel 'I'm locked in for another night. I'm not going to get out of here tonight.' Another day gone."

The long uninterrupted stretch of time in the cells from then until the next morning was the most difficult period of the day. The detainees read, knitted, had political seminars and taught each other songs and Xhosa. They painted, did endless crosswords and puzzles, and wrote the two letters they were allowed to send their families each week. "When there were four of us we would even have fun. But there is always a pervasive sense of frustration, of not having control over your life and not knowing when you will be released."

In October the Grahamstown detainees were released and Janet was on her own for three weeks. "That was when I took the most strain, being alone suddenly after having lots of support and stimulation. I never knew how long I'd remain in solitary. I had novels but they weren't enough. You can be escapist to a certain extent but after a while all novels seem very similar."

The period of solitary ended when Sue Lund was detained. For 9 months they were in the same cell, with no privacy and no means of getting away from each other, "yet in many ways it was a fascinating experience. We were lucky to get on so well. We settled into a very disciplined routine, doing exercise at certain times every day and studying at others." Janet had won permission to do an Honours course in Economic History at the University of Cape Town.



A crucial source of strength through the detention was the knowledge that many local and international groups were campaigning for her release. The letters of support from overseas, the fortnightly visits from her family and the messages they brought from friends gave her determination. "I thought, 'if this is what people feel about me, I'm bloody well going to live up to it.' I wasn't going to let them down."

There was also strength in knowing that black detainees were coping with conditions far worse than hers - "prisons and police stations are probably the most racist institutions in the whole apartheid structure." Black detainees at North End Prison are crowded in their cells, in some cases 10-15 people per cell. They sleep on mats on the floor and not on beds with sheets, and generally do not eat as well as white detainees. Many are physically assaulted; some are tortured.

"What really shocked me though was that I was treated with kid gloves when it came to medical treatment, but Mrs. Bani, a black detainee in the same building, died while I was there. She was a diabetic and should have been getting specialist treatment. She shouldn't have been in a cell with other people. She wasn't even in the prison hospital. And she died."

Talking about Mrs. Bani is the only time Janet expresses anger about detention. She is stoic about her own imprisonment. "Detention is an inevitable part of one's life as an activist now. A lot more of us are going to be detained, we have to accept that. Coping with that experience is one of our roles in the struggle." She insists that other activists should know that they will cope. "Everyone that was detained with me has come out asking 'how soon can I get started again?'" Her final words, before she heads off to have supper with her brother who has just arrived in Cape Town to see her, are predictable: "Human beings is a miracle; they can adapt to anything".

# HUMAN AWARENESS PROGRAMME

HAP

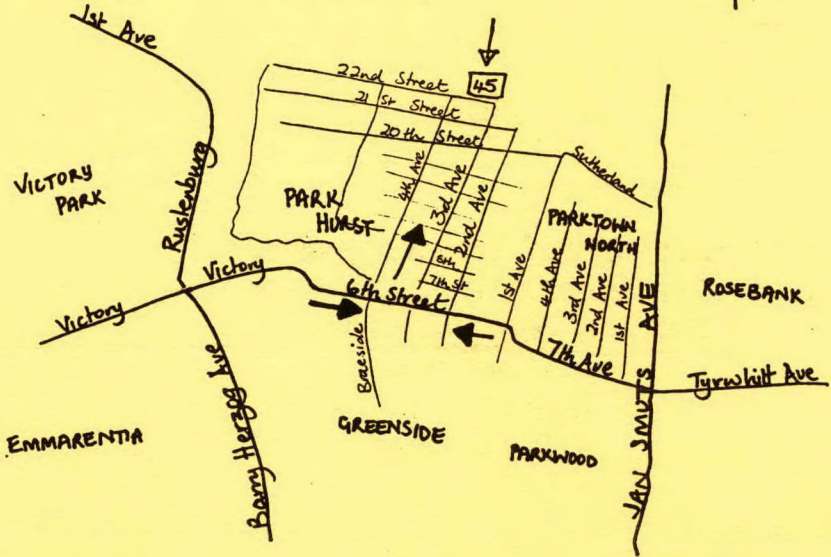
1977-1987



*HELPING TO MEET THE CHALLENGE TO CHANGE*



45 22nd Street  
Parkhurst



The Human Awareness Programme is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. We would like you to celebrate with us because you have shared part of our history. Please join us for lunch on Saturday, August 22 1987.

*Venue: Sheena Duncan's home, 45 22nd Street, Parkhurst*

*Time: 12.30 p.m.*

**R.S.V.P. Glenn Cohen before August 14.**

**Telephone: (011) 728-1211/2/3**

**Address: P O Box 95134,**

**Grant Park,**

**2051,**

**South Africa.**



Commission of Police

Dear Sir

Seizure of End Conscription Campaign 1987 Diary

In December 1986 the End Conscription Campaign compiled a diary for 1987 which was delivered to Henderson (Pty) Ltd to be printed. On 13 December, the completed diaries were seized by the Security Police before delivery could be taken of them.

No reasons for the seizure have been offered by the ~~Security~~ Police or by the Minister of Law and Order<sup>as</sup> at the date of writing. We <sup>now</sup> request that you furnish us with full reasons for the seizure. In particular, we request you to inform us of:

- The Act or Emergency Regulation in terms of which the seizure was authorised;
- The identity of the person who authorised the seizure; and
- The part or parts of the diary which were deemed to justify the seizure.

(1)

① def. of publication = "diary" ?



Unless we receive your reply within twenty one days of the date of this letter, we shall take such further legal steps as are considered appropriate.

Fairly

If the seizure was authorized in terms of ~~§~~ Regulation 6 of Proclamation No. R 224, 1986, we request a copy of the order authorizing such seizure, in terms of subregulation 6(4).



Adelle



THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN  
227 KHOTSO HOUSE  
42 DE VILLIERS ST.  
Johannesburg  
2001.



5.187-11  
B

BESPAAR  
TELEFOONER NA  
18.00  
SAVE  
PHONE AFTER  
18.00

I support the declaration calling on the government to recognise freedom of conscience, and to allow ECC the right to speak!

Signature:

*C. H. Jackson*

CHRIS JACKSON



Dear Friends in Pietermaritzburg,

I hope your workshop has been constructive and inspiring ! I'm sorry to have had to miss it, and so am writing down some of my thoughts about ECC in PMB, most of which you have probably spent the whole evening discussing anyway !

The first thing which struck me here was that although the sub-coms were operating fairly efficiently and with enthusiasm, many people seem to feel that ECC as a whole is floundering. I think this points to

1. The importance of integrating our theory and practice
2. The need for clearer definition of our structures,
3. The need for a more programatic approach to planning our action.

By all accounts the conceptual workshops held recently went a long way to reaffirming our role as ECC, and developing our understanding of how and why we organise around the issue of conscription. I think tht by creating a dynamic relationship between discussions such as these and out actions, we will help ourselves develop into politically conscious activists and also avoid some of the 'floundering'syndrome.

Another area in which we need to integrate theory and practice is in our conception of democracy. While PMB is careful to involve all members in discussion and decision making, I think truly responsible democracy involves all of us in action and collective leadership. I think we would benefit enormously from less reliance on elected leadership, and from everyone thinking agout the campaign and taking more active responsibility for it.

This leads me on th the need to overhaul structures (which, I suppose is part of what today was all about). Importantly, there seems to be a need to co-ordinate sub-com and campaign actions, to define the relationship between town and campus and to define the role of the exec, including that of the chairperson and worker. Better co-ordination would give a greater sense of working together as one body and would also probably improve the mood in the G.B.

Thirdly, in terms of working together and being able to see ourselves achieving concrete things in PMB, I think it would be good to develop a more programatic approach to our work. This would involve setting realisable short-term goals which fit together into a broad plan.

As an example, I would say one of our priorities in PMB would be to recruit more people into active involvement in our structures. This needs to be done systematically, with carefull thought given to who we'll recruit, how we'll do it, what we are going to do to keep people involved and develop their understanding of what ECC is. We need to address the question of why people 'drop out'. All our members need to be thinking of these things and taking responsibility for ensuring the long-term existence of ECC in PMB. All the sub-coms need to be working out how their work contributes to an overall membership drive, and we need to be sure that there is good co-ordination of all the activity. Nothing is impossible ! Given our understanding of ECC's social context, we must and will be able to expand our group,



develop our skills, leadership, discipline and commitment.

I'm going to stop here, I've really enjoyed working with you in PMB and in spite of all the above, feel inspired by the hard work, commitment and honesty of the group here.

I'm sure that the experience of National Conference will help you to feel more fully part of the Great National End Conscription Campaign and that 'Together we will build a brighter future'.

Best wishes to you all. May you grow from strength to strength.



DEAR ADELE + NIC,

This is obviously more of a rave than anything else.

I'll give you a more serious R.B. when I see you.

There's a copy of a letter I was asked to do for PMS to be handed out after a workshop + hopefully reinforcing what'll have happened there.

Sorry its not a very useful communique!

lots of love  
yours, fed to the wolves,  
but coming back to life,  
C.



# End Conscription Campaign

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20 Ecumenical Centre  
20 St Andrews Street  
Durban  
4001

Tel: 3045883  
Telex: 6-21403 S.A.

Dear Paula,

Here are ideas for a Valentine's  
day card - which can be sent  
to friends, supporters, VIP's etc

To save time - similar designs can  
be photostated & then folded into  
cards.

Regards

Howard.

P.S. If you have time - please pass on the  
idea to Stellenbosch.





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